



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
Federal Highway  
Administration

# TRAFFIC VOLUME TRENDS

September 1996

Travel on all roads and streets is  
up by 0.3 percent for September 1996  
as compared to September 1995.



Estimated Vehicle-Miles of Travel by Region - September 1996 - (in Billions)

West	North Central	South Gulf	Northeast	South Atlantic
44.9	50.6	38.7	32.6	38.5

Change in Traffic as compared to the same month last year.

-0.0%	+0.8%	+0.8%	-0.2%	+0.2%
-------	-------	-------	-------	-------

Note: All data for this month are preliminary. Revised values for the previous month are shown in Tables 1 and 2.

All vehicle-miles of travel computed with 1994 Table VM-2 as a base

Compiled with data on hand as of December 6, 1996.

Publication No. FHWA-PL-97-004

### *Traffic Volume Trends - September 1996*

*Based on preliminary reports from the State Highway Agencies, travel during September 1996 on all roads and streets in the nation increased by 0.3 percent as compared to September 1995 resulting in estimated travel for the month at 205.4 billion vehicle-miles. This total includes 80.7 billion vehicle-miles on rural roads and 124.7 billion vehicle-miles on urban roads and streets.*

*Travel for the current month as well the cumulative yearly total on all roads and streets is shown below. Similar totals for each year since 1970 are also included.*

<i>Travel in Millions</i>		
<i>All Roads and Streets</i>		
<i>Year</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>Year to Date</i>
1970	95,254	844,416
1971	101,290	892,021
1972	108,072	957,692
1973	110,332	991,961
1974	109,125	966,911
1975	111,399	999,889
1976	119,431	1,061,926
1977	124,203	1,101,277
1978	131,385	1,166,996
1979	127,576	1,150,907
1980	127,482	1,140,023
1981	131,185	1,167,829
1982	136,311	1,199,501
1983	139,938	1,241,588
1984	146,074	1,295,792
1985	150,424	1,337,720
1986	155,462	1,381,366
1987	164,184	1,446,236
1988	171,072	1,522,352
1989	177,326	1,587,193
1990	178,415	1,624,682
1991	183,594	1,641,294
1992	190,272	1,688,391
1993	193,764	1,729,758
1994	200,774	1,773,527
1995	204,766	1,809,869
1996	205,444	1,841,181

*Traffic Volume Trends is a monthly report based on hourly traffic count data. These data, collected at approximately 4,000 continuous traffic counting locations nationwide, are used to determine the percent change in traffic for the current month compared to the same month in the previous year. This percent change is applied to the travel for the same month of the previous year to obtain an estimate of travel for the current month.*

*For additional information, for extra copies, or to be put on the monthly mailing list, write:*

*Kenneth H. Welty  
Federal Highway Administration  
Office of Highway Information Management  
400 7th Street, S.W., Room 3300, HPM-30  
Washington, DC 20590*

*Phone (202) 366-5055  
FAX (202) 366-7742*

*Change of address information should also be sent to the above address. Send the back cover (including your old address) of the most recent issue you have received with the new information clearly printed or typed.*

Table 1 - Estimated Individual Monthly Motor Vehicle Travel In The United States

System	Month											
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
1995 Individual Monthly Vehicle-Miles of Travel In Billions *												
Rural Interstate	15.2	14.8	17.9	18.5	19.3	20.0	21.7	21.3	19.2	19.1	18.1	17.7
Rural Other Arterial	25.8	25.0	29.7	29.8	32.3	33.1	34.8	34.8	32.0	31.8	29.0	28.0
Other Rural	25.0	23.8	28.1	28.1	30.4	30.5	31.7	31.5	29.4	29.5	27.1	26.9
Urban Interstate	25.8	25.2	28.9	27.6	29.2	29.5	29.9	30.6	28.5	29.1	27.8	27.9
Urban Other Arterial	62.7	59.5	68.7	66.4	70.3	69.6	69.4	70.7	68.0	69.6	64.9	66.2
Other Urban	<u>25.0</u>	<u>23.8</u>	<u>27.7</u>	<u>26.9</u>	<u>28.4</u>	<u>28.3</u>	<u>28.7</u>	<u>29.1</u>	<u>27.6</u>	<u>28.0</u>	<u>26.4</u>	<u>26.4</u>
All Systems	179.5	172.3	200.9	197.4	209.9	211.0	216.1	218.0	204.8	207.0	193.3	192.9
1996 Individual Monthly Vehicle-Miles of Travel In Billions *												
Rural Interstate	15.4	15.2	18.5	18.9	20.1	20.6	22.3	22.7	19.3			
Rural Other Arterial	25.8	25.5	30.0	30.6	33.3	33.4	35.5	36.1	32.1			
Other Rural	25.0	24.3	28.1	28.8	31.2	30.9	32.2	32.2	29.3			
Urban Interstate	26.3	25.9	29.0	28.5	30.2	29.7	30.7	31.4	28.8			
Urban Other Arterial	63.0	60.4	68.6	68.2	71.6	69.6	72.2	72.1	68.4			
Other Urban	<u>25.1</u>	<u>24.2</u>	<u>27.7</u>	<u>27.7</u>	<u>29.3</u>	<u>28.5</u>	<u>29.5</u>	<u>29.7</u>	<u>27.5</u>			
All Systems	180.6	175.6	202.0	202.6	215.6	212.7	222.4	224.2	205.4			
Percent Change In Individual Monthly Travel 1996 vs. 1995												
Rural Interstate	1.1	2.4	3.7	2.2	4.5	2.9	2.7	6.3	0.6			
Rural Other Arterial	0.1	1.8	0.9	2.4	3.1	1.0	2.0	3.8	0.1			
Other Rural	0.0	2.0	0.2	2.4	2.7	1.2	1.8	2.2	0.0			
Urban Interstate	1.7	2.7	0.6	3.4	3.5	0.7	2.6	2.6	1.2			
Urban Other Arterial	0.4	1.5	-0.2	2.6	1.8	0.0	4.0	2.0	0.5			
Other Urban	<u>0.6</u>	<u>1.9</u>	<u>0.3</u>	<u>3.0</u>	<u>2.9</u>	<u>0.6</u>	<u>2.8</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>-0.5</u>			
All Systems	0.6	1.9	0.6	2.7	2.8	0.8	2.9	2.8	0.3			

Table 2 - Estimated Cumulative Monthly Motor Vehicle Travel In The United States

System	Month											
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
1995 Cumulative Monthly Vehicle-Miles of Travel In Billions *												
Rural Interstate	15.2	30.1	47.9	66.4	85.7	105.7	127.4	148.7	167.9	187.0	205.1	222.8
Rural Other Arterial	25.8	50.8	80.5	110.4	142.7	175.8	210.6	245.4	277.4	309.2	338.2	366.1
Other Rural	25.0	48.8	76.9	105.1	135.4	165.9	197.6	229.2	258.5	288.0	315.1	341.9
Urban Interstate	25.8	51.1	79.9	107.5	136.7	166.2	196.1	226.7	255.2	284.3	312.1	339.9
Urban Other Arterial	62.7	122.2	190.9	257.4	327.6	397.2	466.6	537.3	605.4	675.0	739.9	806.1
Other Urban	25.0	48.8	76.4	103.3	131.7	160.0	188.7	217.9	245.5	273.5	299.9	326.3
All Systems	179.5	351.8	552.7	750.0	959.9	1170.9	1387.1	1605.1	1809.9	2016.9	2210.2	2403.1
1996 Cumulative Monthly Vehicle-Miles of Travel In Billions *												
Rural Interstate	15.4	30.6	49.1	68.0	88.1	108.8	131.0	153.7	173.0			
Rural Other Arterial	25.8	51.3	81.3	111.9	145.2	178.6	214.1	250.2	282.3			
Other Rural	25.0	49.3	77.4	106.3	137.5	168.3	200.6	232.8	262.1			
Urban Interstate	26.3	52.2	81.3	109.8	140.0	169.7	200.4	231.7	260.6			
Urban Other Arterial	63.0	123.4	191.9	260.1	331.7	401.2	473.5	545.6	614.0			
Other Urban	<u>25.1</u>	<u>49.4</u>	<u>77.1</u>	<u>104.8</u>	<u>134.1</u>	<u>162.5</u>	<u>192.0</u>	<u>221.7</u>	<u>249.2</u>			
All Systems	180.6	356.2	558.2	760.8	976.5	1189.2	1411.6	1635.7	1841.2			
Percent Change In Cumulative Monthly Travel 1996 vs. 1995												
Rural Interstate	1.1	1.7	2.5	2.4	2.9	2.9	2.8	3.3	3.0			
Rural Other Arterial	0.1	1.0	1.0	1.3	1.8	1.6	1.7	2.0	1.8			
Other Rural	0.0	1.0	0.7	1.2	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.4			
Urban Interstate	1.7	2.2	1.6	2.1	2.4	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.1			
Urban Other Arterial	0.4	0.9	0.5	1.1	1.2	1.0	1.5	1.5	1.4			
Other Urban	<u>0.6</u>	<u>1.3</u>	<u>0.9</u>	<u>1.4</u>	<u>1.8</u>	<u>1.6</u>	<u>1.8</u>	<u>1.8</u>	<u>1.5</u>			
All Systems	0.6	1.2	1.0	1.4	1.7	1.6	1.8	1.9	1.7			

\* System entries may not add to give "All Systems" total due to rounding.

Table 3 - Changes On Rural Arterial Roads By Region and State

Region and State	September				August			
	Number of Stations	Vehicle-Miles (Millions)		Percent Change	Number of Stations	Vehicle-Miles (Millions)		Percent Change
		1996 (Preliminary)	1995			1996 (Revised)	1995	
<b>Northeast</b>								
Connecticut	19	353	352	0.5	19	411	393	4.6
Maine	35	493	501	-1.7	35	627	607	3.2
Massachusetts	16	463	476	-2.6	32	583	554	5.2
New Hampshire	-	349	356	-1.9	58	444	424	4.6
New Jersey	4	636	651	-2.4	14	688	664	3.5
New York	41	1,392	1,404	-0.9	44	1,749	1,678	4.3
Pennsylvania	48	2,227	2,238	-0.5	49	2,680	2,593	3.4
Rhode Island	-	54	55	-1.3	-	63	60	4.7
Vermont	32	<u>238</u>	<u>243</u>	-1.9	32	<u>290</u>	<u>276</u>	4.8
		6,205	6,275	-1.1		7,534	7,250	3.9
<b>South Atlantic</b>								
Delaware	-	136	137	-0.4	-	169	165	2.2
Dist Of Columbia	-	0	0	0.0	-	0	0	0.0
Florida	173	1,959	1,933	1.3	173	2,213	2,071	6.9
Georgia	41	1,839	1,800	2.2	36	2,076	1,931	7.5
Maryland	-	757	772	-1.9	-	907	886	2.4
North Carolina	-	1,737	1,752	-0.9	-	1,956	1,896	3.2
South Carolina	-	1,470	1,439	2.2	-	1,581	1,472	7.4
Virginia	13	1,654	1,721	-3.9	14	1,864	1,845	1.0
West Virginia	-	<u>679</u>	<u>687</u>	-1.1	-	<u>814</u>	<u>783</u>	4.0
		10,231	10,241	-0.1		11,578	11,049	4.8
<b>North Central</b>								
Illinois	34	1,670	1,653	1.0	33	1,920	1,828	5.0
Indiana	-	1,508	1,501	0.5	26	1,701	1,613	5.4
Iowa	125	996	987	0.9	125	1,135	1,095	3.6
Kansas	68	769	768	0.1	66	848	810	4.8
Michigan	-	1,816	1,795	1.2	-	2,090	1,956	6.9
Minnesota	-	1,280	1,259	1.6	-	1,457	1,378	5.8
Missouri	70	1,483	1,476	0.5	74	1,702	1,616	5.3
Nebraska	29	618	612	1.0	30	688	662	3.9
North Dakota	36	271	272	-0.3	30	305	302	1.0
Ohio	53	1,857	1,845	0.7	50	2,044	1,910	7.0
South Dakota	43	370	357	3.9	44	436	422	3.4
Wisconsin	121	<u>1,672</u>	<u>1,644</u>	1.7	118	<u>1,909</u>	<u>1,762</u>	8.3
		14,310	14,168	1.0		16,236	15,355	5.7
<b>South Gulf</b>								
Alabama	46	1,210	1,207	0.2	39	1,393	1,307	6.6
Arkansas	-	913	915	-0.2	-	1,009	976	3.4
Kentucky	47	1,041	1,048	-0.7	41	1,189	1,136	4.6
Louisiana	-	999	979	2.0	-	1,161	1,093	6.2
Mississippi	65	956	950	0.7	67	1,049	998	5.1
Oklahoma	-	953	933	2.2	-	1,043	982	6.2
Tennessee	19	1,517	1,534	-1.1	13	1,727	1,707	1.2
Texas	116	<u>3,315</u>	<u>3,226</u>	2.7	116	<u>3,599</u>	<u>3,381</u>	6.5
		10,903	10,791	1.0		12,170	11,580	5.1
<b>West</b>								
Alaska	43	105	108	-2.5	47	132	131	0.2
Arizona	-	841	841	-0.0	-	971	929	4.5
California	18	3,311	3,354	-1.3	16	3,732	3,616	3.2
Colorado	-	893	885	0.9	-	1,015	975	4.2
Hawaii	-	120	122	-1.5	-	132	131	1.2
Idaho	-	417	418	-0.2	139	490	473	3.6
Montana	-	467	467	0.2	42	574	567	1.2
Nevada	38	314	317	-1.0	38	365	362	1.0
New Mexico	-	488	477	2.4	70	555	536	3.6
Oregon	126	977	985	-0.8	123	1,127	1,101	2.4
Utah	70	481	471	2.0	65	571	539	6.0
Washington	49	952	959	-0.7	49	1,112	1,063	4.6
Wyoming	117	<u>358</u>	<u>355</u>	0.6	120	<u>442</u>	<u>431</u>	2.4
		9,725	9,759	-0.3		11,220	10,855	3.4
<b>TOTALS</b>		51,374	51,234	0.3		58,739	56,088	4.7

Note: Where Number of Stations are shown as dashes, the values for Vehicle-Miles and Percent Change are derived from the estimated VMT based on data from surrounding States or the Nationwide average VMT.

FIGURE 1 - MOVING 12-MONTH TOTAL ON ALL HIGHWAYS

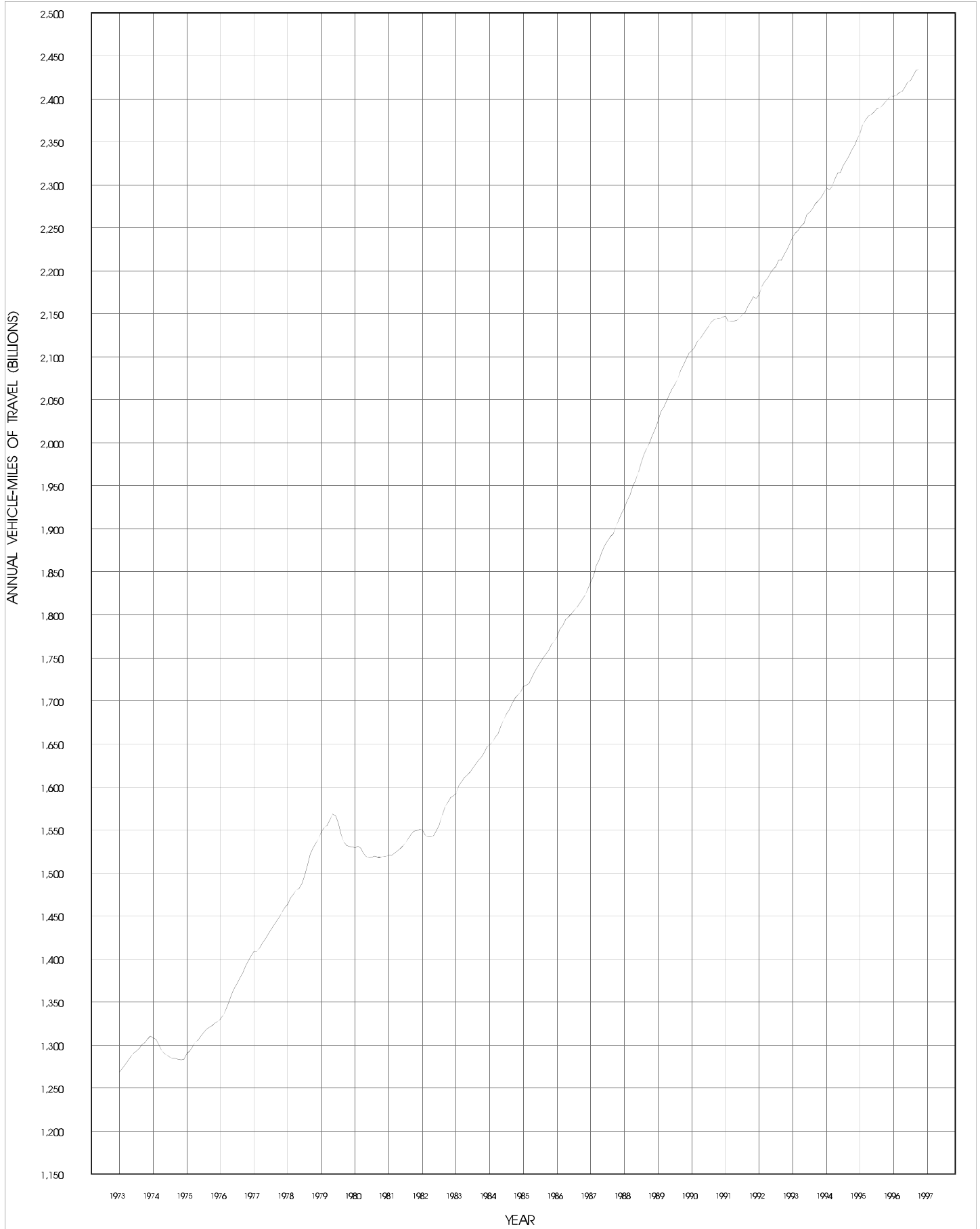


FIGURE 2 - TRAVEL ON U.S. HIGHWAYS BY MONTH

